

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 14, 2003, claims 1, 3, 4 and 26 have been amended, and no claim has been added or cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-27 are active in this application, of which claims 1, 24, 25, 26 and 27 are independent. The Office Action indicates that claims 6, 7, 10, 11 and 15-22 are objected to but would be allowable if presented in independent form.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments.

Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 12-14 and 23-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,966,191 issued to Lee ("Lee") in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,442,470 issued to Hashimoto ("Hashimoto"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites "*wherein the mold frame includes a receiving recess for receiving a portion of the flexible circuit board*" and "*a support member for supporting the portion of the flexible circuit board in the receiving recess*".

In the Office Action, the Examiner admitted "Lee does not explicitly disclose a support means for supporting said flexible circuit board towards said mold frame". (Office Action, page

3). Regarding this missing feature, the Examiner asserted that, in FIG. 4 of Hashimoto, "the circuit board, 3, (col. 5, lines 58-68) (Applicant's support member for supporting the flexible circuit board towards the mold frame)". On this basis, the Examiner alleged "Hashimoto is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion or motivation to add a flexible printed circuit board curved into a recess ... and a support means ..." (Office Action, page 4). This assertion is respectfully disagreed with for the following reasons.

It is submitted that the asserted combination does not result in the structure recited in claim 1 because none of the cited references discloses or suggests the claimed "support member" recited in claim 1. The Examiner asserted that the integrated circuit 7 in FIG. 4 of Hashimoto corresponds to the claimed support member. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this assertion.

The module structure shown in FIG. 4 of Hashimoto comprises a U-shaped frame member 8, of which one end is pressing the LCD panel 1 and the other end is pressing the light guide plate 9. The flexible printed circuit 6 is connected to the LCD panel 1 and curved along the inner surface the frame member 8. The integrated circuit 7 is formed on the flexible printed circuit 6, and the circuit board 3 is formed between the flexible printed circuit 6 and the frame member 8.

Here, the integrated circuit 7 is merely mounted on the flexible printed circuit 6, but does not perform any supporting function. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider if the integrated circuit 7 is *truthfully* provide for "supporting the portion of the flexible circuit board in the receiving recess", as claimed.

Applicants believe that there is no explicit teaching or implicit suggestion that the integrated circuit 7 is provided for supporting the flexible printed circuit 6. If the Examiner wishes to maintain this position, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide, in the next action, reasonable and logical explanation as to (a) how and where in Hashimoto teaches the supporting function of the integrated circuit 7, and (b) what the integrated circuit 7 is supporting.

As well known, "to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitation must be taught or suggested by the prior art". *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). Also, "all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against prior art". *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Since none of the cited references discloses or suggest the claimed support member, and the Examiner has not consider the words "supporting the portion of the flexible circuit board in the receiving recess" which should be respected and considered as equally as other claim words, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Lee and Hashimoto. Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 12-14 and 23 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Independent claim 24 recites "a supporting means disposed between the chassis and the flexible circuit board, for the supporting the flexible circuit board towards the outside of the sidewall of the mold frame". As previously mentioned, neither Lee nor Hashimoto discloses or suggests the claimed supporting means. Thus, it is submitted that claim 24 is patentable over the cited references.

Independent claim 25 recites “a portion of the flexible circuit board being arranged substantially perpendicular to the liquid crystal display panel to be opposite to an outside of a side wall of the mold frame”. In this regard, the flexible circuit board of Lee is *entirely* flat and substantially parallel to the LCD panel 10. In Hashimoto, the flat portions of the flexible printed circuit board 6 are substantially parallel to the LCD panel 1, and the curved portion of the flexible printed circuit 6 is not substantially perpendicular to the LCD panel 1. Also, the curved portion of the flexible printed circuit 6 is opposite to an inside of the side wall of the frame member 8.

Accordingly, none of the cited references discloses or suggests “a portion of the flexible circuit board being arranged substantially perpendicular to the liquid crystal display panel to be opposite to an outside of a side wall of the mold frame”, as recited in claim 25. Thus, it is submitted that claim 25 is patentable over the cited references.

Independent claim 26 recites “a portion of the second flexible circuit board being bent perpendicular to the liquid crystal panel to be opposite to an outside of a side wall of the mold frame”. As previously argued with respect to claim 25, none of the cited references discloses or suggests this claimed feature. Thus, it is submitted that claim 26 is patentable over the cited references.

Independent claim 27 recites “a supporting means disposed between the chassis and the flexible circuit board to be coupled with the first portion of the outside of the side wall of the mold frame, for supporting the flexible circuit board to second portions of the outside of the side walls of said mold frame”. As previously mentioned, none of the cited reference teaches the claimed supporting means. Hence, it is submitted that claim 27 is patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 12-14 and 23-27 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

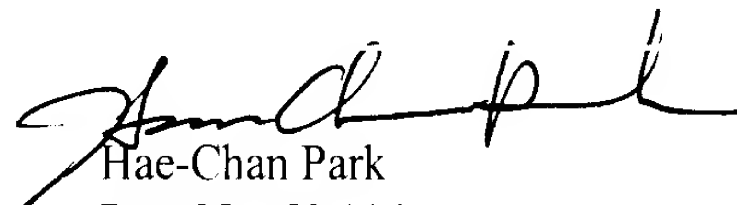
In this response, claims 1, 3, 4 and 26 have been amended solely for informality correction purposed. Particularly claim 1 has been amended for proper antecedent basis. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended for correcting claim dependency. Claim 3 has been further amended for correcting a grammatical error and claim 26 has been amended for correcting a typographical error. No new matter has been added by this amended, and the amendments made in claims 1, 3, 4 and 26 do not change the claim scope thereof.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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